

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-5 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth below.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification due to the use of acronyms which were not explained. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the definition of each acronym in the specification. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to now refer “an outside source” in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is now overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stinton (U. S. Patent 5,204,670). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Stinton shows at least one tag 74, at least one reader/writer communicating with the tag, 40, the tag being provided with an input/output means, 80, 84, a predetermined device connected to the input/output means, 90, 88, 73, with the predetermined devices being operated by information from the reader/writer. Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Stinton reference.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the feature that the predetermined devices have at least a microphone and a speaker. This is not seen in the Stinton reference. If an emergency happens such as an earthquake, where a person is buried in wreckage, the speaker and microphone allow a message to be sent to the victim by voice and a voice message from the victim can be recorded through the microphone. This allows the message to be reviewed by voice analysis and the presence of the victim to be confirmed from a remote location. This differs from Stinton where the tag is used for an electronic monitoring and identification system. For example, this could be used for a prisoner under house arrest. However, the tag in this arrangement does not have a microphone or speaker, and it would not be obvious to use one since it is for an entirely different purpose. For these reasons,

Applicants submit that claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious over the Stinton reference.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and, as such, are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite other features of the invention, making these claims additionally allowable.

Applicants have also added new claim 5, which describes the invention in different terms. The device is described as an emergency locating system with the tags being located in a structure in a deactivated state until an emergency. Applicants submit that the cited references do not show this concept at all. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 5 is likewise allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

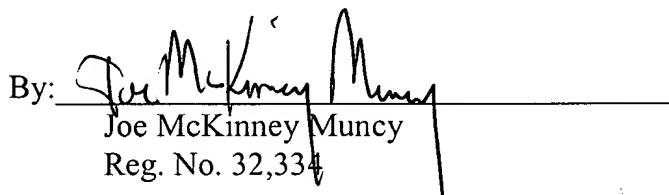
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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